

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas the conflict in El Salvador has inflicted on the people of that country a tragic toll in lives and property;

Whereas the conflict appears to be a stalemate with no end in sight;

Whereas the continuation of the conflict will further polarize the political climate in El Salvador and place in jeopardy the peace and security of the Central American region;

Whereas the government of El Salvador has demonstrated its commitment to the holding of elections;

Whereas the combined political and military leadership of the insurgent opposition has declared its willingness to engage in negotiations without preconditions to end the conflict;

Whereas other groups and nations in Central America and Europe have announced their willingness to facilitate such negotiations;

And whereas the present opportunity to pursue such negotiations is a unique moment in the history of the conflict and may not be repeated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That with respect to the civil conflict in El Salvador it should be the policy of the United States Government to encourage all parties to the conflict --

(1) to begin unconditional negotiations for the purpose of achieving a cease-fire arrangement under international supervision, and

(2) to pursue these negotiations for the purpose of reaching an overall political settlement to the conflict, one element of which would be open and free elections under international supervision.